

Lily O'Brien

Cyberlore Project

FOLK-F351

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Collector: Lily O'Brien

Title: Shows based on Online Dating

Category: Venues

Description: This cyberlore is a result of online dating. Online dating has expanded at an incredible rate in the past few years with new specific interest dating sites such as amishsingles.com, Christiansingles.com etc. Online dating comes with some risks such as trusting that everything the person you're dating tells you (or shows you via internet) is true. This tends to not always be the case. Sometimes men will think they are chatting a cute 20 something blonde girl when in reality there's a 35 year old guy on the other side of the screen.

About two years ago a show debuted on MTV called, "Catfish". The term catfish refers to when an online dater falls for a false identity another online date has made for themselves. This show exploits the "couples" messages and then tracks down the person with the false identity exposing them for their true selves. This show is considered cyberlore because it was a creative outlet for people to highlight a trend in society. There were no rules involved in this they just went for it.

Collector: Lily O'Brien

Title: Terminology based on Online Dating

Category: Venues

Description: Online dating and dating via apps has become a large part of society so it only makes sense that new lingo has come from it. As mentioned above the term “catfish” is when someone turns out to be completely different from their online profile. Another saying is “swipe left” this stems from the app called Tinder. In this app you are presented with pictures of potential suitors and based on their pictures, names and a small bio you decide if you like them. If you like them you swipe left and if you don’t like them you swipe right. Now people use the term “swipe left” in real life. If you see someone attractive you could tell your friend, “I’d swipe left for her/him”.

This is an example of verbal folklore because there are no rules or higher authority implementing the use of these words. People just picked up on the trend of these sites/apps and began using the lingo in their everyday lives.

Collector: Lily O’Brien

Title: Tinderella

Category: Venues

Description: This clip is a result of the previously mentioned Tinder app. It highlighted the humor within the uses of the app. For example it highlights that the app was originally made for long term dating but is mainly used for hooking up. It also highlights that people are incredibly superficial when using the app basing their “matches” on looks. This video is folklore because it was a very creative is highlighting aspects of a media that is used in many people’s everyday lives.

One-Page Discussion

These pieces of folklore are incredibly relatable to student life. Now a days students are constantly plugged into the internet and their phones talking to each other and leaving footprints on the web. Most of the time these young people are on the internet using social media to make connections with each other. So it's no shock that many students all over the United States and internationally use dating services and apps to further these connections.

Because students use these apps and sites they are also completely tuned into these pieces of folklore. The show Catfish is shown on Mtv. A channel predominantly watched by teenagers and young adults. The Cinderella video short was created by a video channel called College Humor whose general audience is also young adults. This crowd is also the kind of crowd that would use the words I mentioned. Not only does this demographic use and enjoy these pieces of folklore, but they are the ones that create them.